

**Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority**  
**Key Accomplishments**  
**July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012**

**General Accomplishments**

- Created and worked within sub-committee structure to provide greater momentum between regularly scheduled Flood Authority meetings.
- Executive Committee:
  - Coordinated monthly meetings, tours in different areas
  - Helped coordinate work of other committees, Flood Authority as a whole
- Education & Outreach Committee:
  - Developed and implemented public outreach strategy
  - Updated general Flood Authority site; launched iPRMT site (archival website)
  - Rotated meetings to different locations
    - 2011 meetings: Rochester, Montesano, Chehalis, Bucoda, Cosmopolis/Aberdeen
    - 2012: Chehalis, Chehalis Reservation, Montesano, Napavine, Rochester, Oakville
  - Filmed key meetings to provide public access to technical information
- Project Committee:
  - Reviewed more than 16 different flood plans and compiled projects into complete matrix of possible projects; began working to develop additional project information
  - Used project matrix as a source for shovel-ready package of projects to implement
- Participated in and passed audit by State Accounting Office with no comments or feedback.

**Specific Project Accomplishments**

- WEST Consultants implemented and calibrated the **Chehalis Basin Early Warning System** to provide timely information about impending flood conditions to allow for better forecasting of potential impacts. The Flood Authority publicized the system through a news release, technical and public workshops, and public television broadcasts.
- Anchor QEA completed two major studies:
  - 1) The **Fisheries Impact Study** examined potential impacts of a proposed dam on fish in the upper mainstem; a draft was circulated in November 2011 and finalized in April 2012 after Anchor QEA addressed extensive comments.
  - 2) The **Fisheries Enhancement Study** reviewed numerous existing studies and provided a summary of how to provide specific benefits to fish in the mainstem Chehalis River Basin.
- Watershed Science and Engineering, along with WEST Consultants, hired through a competitive bid process to create a complete **basinwide hydraulic model** that now includes the lower river. This model, completed in May 2012, built upon on existing models and was developed in close coordination with the US Army Corps of Engineers and WSDOT.
- Worked closely with the Ruckelshaus Center to develop the **OFM** report outline, timeline, and procedural approach to gathering information, create report, including technical work sessions in May 2012 and public policy work session in June 2012. Report due in August.

## **Key Events by Date**

### July 2011:

- Governor's Office briefing by Keith Phillips
- Reviewed WEST Consultants supplemental contract
- Reviewed staff scopes of work, potential work plans

### August 2011:

- Reviewed draft work plan and approved sub committee structure, members
- Prepared hydraulic model request for qualifications, interviewed candidates, and worked with Exec. Committee to select combined team of experts for review by Flood Authority

### September 2011:

- Toured Montesano area flooding concerns
- Approved draft work plan through 2012
- Reviewed draft stakeholder outreach plan
- Received update on Fisheries Study
- Reviewed and approved proposed approach for hydraulic modeling

### October 2011

- Conducted tour of upper basin for House Capital Budget Committee, staff, interested participants; follow up discussions with Chairman Dunshee and Flood Authority
- Reviewed products from sub-committees, including updated website language, draft iPRMT site structure, project lists
- Approved work plan for hydraulic modeling, coordination services

### November 2011

- Toured Bucoda area flooding concerns, Skookumchuck Dam
- Briefing on Anchor QEA Fisheries Study, Enhancement Work
- Briefing on hydraulic modeling effort and Early Warning System
- Reviewed request to add new members from Napavine and Cosmopolis
- Worked on approvals for final Early Warning System gages
- Hosted 3 public open houses on Early Warning System, and tested the system during high water events just prior to Thanksgiving
- Anchor QEA Fisheries Study released for public review, comment
- Further coordination re: OFM report

### December 2011

- Formal consultation meeting between Flood Authority and Chehalis Tribe
- Continued field work for hydraulic modeling effort, and coordination with Corps
- Feedback and refinement of the Early Warning System, plus update on gage installation
- Review of Fisheries Impact Study:
  - Process update at Flood Authority meeting
  - Discussion with Quinault Indian Nation, NWIFC staff
  - Technical Workshop, Question/Answer Session held for public
  - Review period extended until early January 2012
- Tour of Cosmopolis and Aberdeen flooding areas
- Continued discussion of coordination with OFM report
- Continued discussion about adding Napavine/Cosmopolis as members

#### January 2012:

- In-depth briefing by Anchor QEA on Fisheries Impact Study on comments, next steps
- Rescheduled Flood Authority meeting due to severe snow storm
  - Review of Accomplishments to date
  - Update on OFM report process, next steps
  - Discussion of use of consensus as a tool
  - Discussion of adding Napavine and Cosmopolis to the Flood Authority
- Organized briefing, basin tour for Senator Cantwell's staff
- Drafted op ed to Chehalis Chronicle, Daily World; participated in editorial board mtgs.
- Lewis County Conservation District hosted community meeting at Baw Faw Grange

#### February 2012:

- Extensive work on hydraulic model underway, including on Skookumchuck, Black and Newaukum Rivers as well as mainstem Chehalis River
- Updates re: on-going projects, next steps
- Tribal Training session

#### March 2012:

- Performance Audit by Washington State Auditor's Office returned with no comments
- Reviewed development of hydraulic model, results in tributaries
- Reviewed completed project matrix, discussed next steps for adding additional info
- Discussion with Ruckelshaus Center on OFM report, potential opportunities re: next steps
- Determined route forward on Napavine and Cosmopolis question

#### April 2012:

- Reviewed final Fisheries Impact Study
- Update on OFM report, next steps
- Reviewed existing workplan, began development of 2012-2013 workplan
- Began to discuss how to implement ESB 5127, Jobs Now Act
- Toured Napavine/Newaukum River area

#### May 2012

- Reviewed final Fisheries Enhancement Study, discussed potential next steps
- Reviewed preliminary results from hydraulic model
- Toured Helsing Junction Organic Farm
- Passed a resolution recognizing Governor Gregoire for her work
- Reviewed potential projects, approach for ESB 5127 Jobs Now Act
- Participated in Ruckelshaus Center Technical Workshops for OFM Report

#### June 2012

- Participated in Ruckelshaus Center two day policy workshop on flood relief measures
- Grays Harbor Cons. District hosted community meetings (Sharon Grange, Montesano)
- To accomplish during the June 21, 2012 Flood Authority meeting:
  - Adopt 2012-2013 workplan
  - Approve moving forward with contracts, next steps
  - Determine next steps for O&M for Early Warning System